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DCI-IC-77-3326
20 June 1977MEMORANDUM FOR: Walter Elder
Executive Secretary, NFIB25X1 VIA: [redacted]
Director of Performance Evaluation
and Improvement
25X1 FROM: [redacted]
Chief, Imagery Division, OPEI
SUBJECT: Intelligence Definitions

1. Our comments on the intelligence definitions proposed in Mr. McMahon's memorandum for the NFIB of 6 June 1977 are as follows:

25X1 a. Given that the 84 topics in the draft revision of the attachment to [redacted] of 24 May 1977 represent a comprehensive statement of foreign intelligence needs, one may categorize these in any one of several ways. Currently four categories are defined, viz. Political, Economic, Military, and Science and Technology. If the last of these is eliminated, as proposed in statement a., five of the ten S&T topics would readily fit into the Military category. The other five would apply in part to Economic and in part to Military, requiring fission of each topic, with or without subsequent fusion with existing topics of the surviving categories. From our standpoint, we see nothing to be gained logically or aesthetically by this re-categorization, nor would we suffer from it now. We shall soon be starting the computer programming effort on our executive-level reporting scheme, and when this is done, we would have to revise the program to accommodate to the re-categorization. We suggest that the impact of the proposed re-categorization in other areas, e.g., SIGINT and HUMINT, be investigated, particularly as it affects existing computer software.

b. Statement b. implies that the body of foreign intelligence can be categorized into "strategic" and "tactical" on the

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basis of the identity of the controller of the assets collecting the information from which the intelligence is derived. This is useful only to the extent that the intelligence is sole-source. Where the intelligence is multi-source, as much of it surely is, there will be two or more controllers of assets, which will complicate or altogether frustrate attempts at categorization.

2. If the term "tactical" is to be applied in association with the terms "national" and "departmental" to a category of consumers of intelligence where the basis of the categorization scheme is the organizational affiliation of the consumer (as in statement c.), then it would perhaps be wise not to use it as well in association with the term "strategic." However, the categories to which they are applied are defined.

3. As a general comment, these definitions are very loose and are likely to raise as many questions as they resolve.



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